GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:225
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
APPLICATION OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Space Technology has been applied in the field of agriculture in India;

(b) whether Government proposes to launch a separate satellite exclusively for the development of agriculture; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a), (b) & (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO PARTS (A), (B) & (C) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.225 REGARDING "APPLICATION OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE" ASKED BY SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID FOR ANSWER ON WEDNESDAY,AUGUST 29, 2007.

(a) Space Technology, particularly satellite remote sensing, has been providing valuable and timely information in the agricultural sector towards estimating crop acreage and forecasting crop production for major crops such as rice and wheat prior to harvesting; soil and water conservation activities for watershed development in the dryland areas; enhancing the irrigation potential and improving the water use efficiency in the irrigated command areas; analysing the cropping systems for intensification and diversification; monitoring the crop losses due to flood and drought; and also identifying potential fishery zones to enable increased fish catch. Satellite remote sensing data has also been utilised for identifying different categories of wastelands towards reclamation for appropriate agriculture activities; and for assessing the land degradation and soil mapping purposes.

Satellite based technology has also been used for setting up networks of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and Doppler Weather Radars (DWR) towards improving agricultural meteorological services; and also for setting up of Village Resource Centres (VRCs) for delivering space enabled products and services along with advisories and extension services to the farmers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.